THE INTRODUCTION OF

MESMERISM,

AS AN ANÆSTHETIC AND CURATIVE AGENT,

INTO THE

HOSPITALS OF INDIA.

BY

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Dedicated to the Medical Profession.

I am for tearing off every mask, for managing nothing, and for shutting the eyes to nothing, that truth may be transparent and unadulterated, and may have a free course.—LUTHER.

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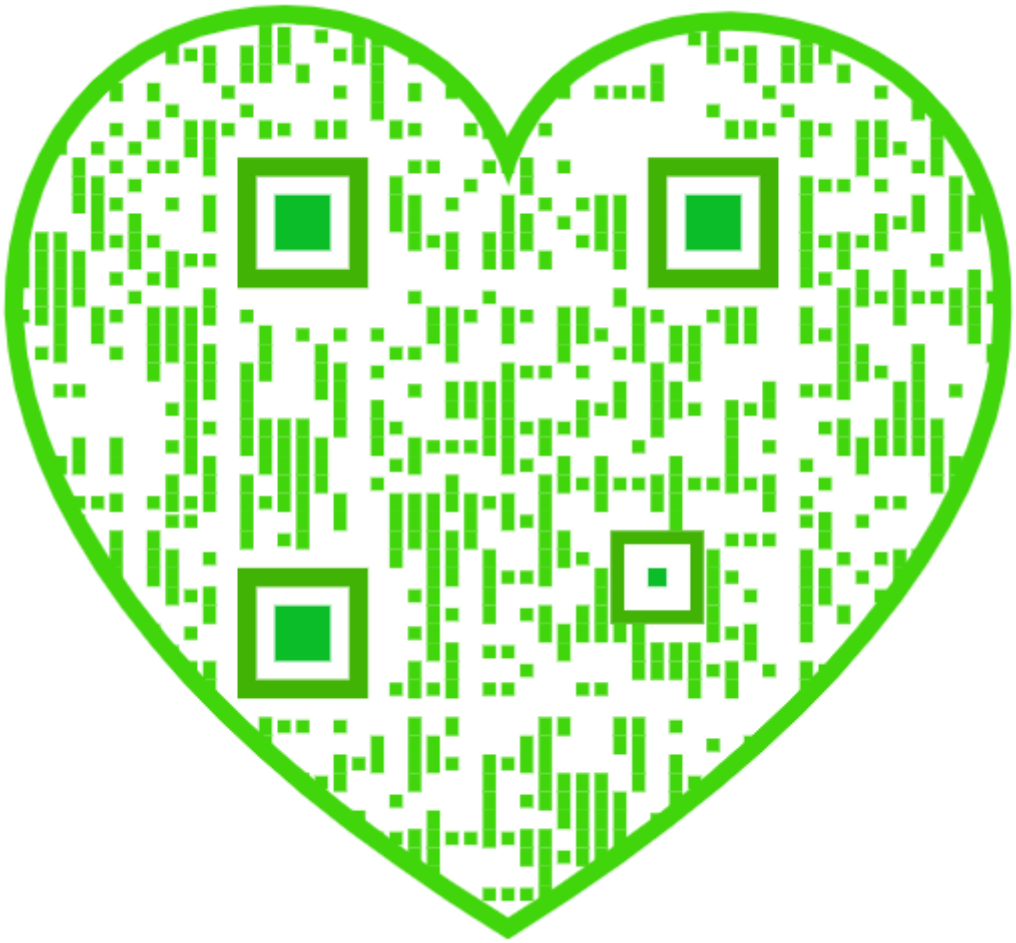

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DEDICATION.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Gentlemen,

When you learn that the following pamphlet is, in part, a "*Rejected Article*," you will think it but a poor compliment to dedicate it to you.

But the circumstances attending its rejection by the Editors of the *Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, are so peculiar, and at the same time so materially affect your interests, that I consider it due to my Profession to submit the facts of the case to your candid and dispassionate judgment; and to ask you respectfully, whether you approve of all evidence upon the subject of my paper (Mesmerism) being suppressed by your journals, as has hitherto been done.

This has been so much the case, that I should never have thought of writing an article at all for a Medical Journal, if I had not been requested by one of the Editors of the *Edinburgh Monthly Journal* to do so.

You will perceive, from what follows, that it fell to my lot to introduce Mesmerism into the practice of Surgery and Medicine in the Government Hospitals of Calcutta and its neighbourhood; and with such success, that *painless Surgery* was as common in my hospitals, long before ether or chloroform were heard of, as it has become in the hospitals of England since the discovery of the anæsthetic virtues of these drugs.

Dr. Simpson of Edinburgh, having heard of my mesmeric doings, sent a message to me through my brother, the Rev. David Esdaile, "that I owed it to myself and my profession, to let my proeeedings be known in England; and that if I would write an artiele, he would get it published in the Journal he was eonneeted with." I therefore sent him "*an account of one hundred and sixty-one scrotal tumours removed in the mesmeric trance.*" Shortly after, I sailed for England, and on reaehing this eountry, I found that my paper had not been printed in the *Edinburgh Monthly Journal.* Dr. Simpson excused himself on the plea that it had also been sent to the *Medical Gazette.** Upon this, I offered Dr. Simpson a more general paper, deseriptive of my Indian mesmerie experienee, but got only a eomplimentary note in reply. In this, Dr. Simpson was pleased to say, "that he had always eonsidered the few deaths out of so many formidable operations performed by me, one of the most remarkable things in the history of Surgery." His silenee respeeting my offered artiele was signifieant enough, but that there might be *no mistake*, I reminded him that he had forgotten my offer. After eonsiderable delay he informed me, that "my proposal had been submitted to his brother Editors, but that they feared my artiele would not be suffieiently *practical* for a *practical* journal like theirs." To this I replied, that his brother Editors had quite mistaken the nature of my intended artiele, whieh was meant to be above all things *practical*, and, if it were not so, they might rejeet it,—and rejeeted it has been.

Now, Gentlemen of the Medieal Profession, may I request you to eondescend to read the first Chapter of this Pamphlet, and then to say eandidly whether you believe my paper was rejected for its *unpractical character*, or simply because the Editors have resolved that *Mesmerism* in any shape shall not be true, and are determined that you shall have no opportunity, in their pages, of judging for yourselves.

I have heard that it is given as a reason for not printing

* It was printed in the Medical Gazette, but mutilated in the most unwarrantable manner.

my paper, that no one now denies my facts, but that they only apply to the natives of India, and that I am challenged to come and do the same thing in the hospitals of Edinburgh. But, as far as I know, no Medical Journal has admitted the reality of *painless mesmeric operations*, even for India, or inserted one of the numerous European cases reported from London, Paris, Cherbourg, Madras, &c. They will not admit, or permit you to hear even of, such indisputable facts, for fear of the consequences. For if the medical mesmerists are proved to have been right so far, the public and the Profession will naturally ask if they are so likely to be wrong in the rest of their statements, as those who, without examination, deny them. But supposing the *natives of India* were alone concerned, is it of no interest to the surgeon, the physician, the physiologist, and natural philosopher, to know that the one hundred and twenty millions of our Eastern subjects and fellow-men (one would suppose they were monkeys) are so susceptible of the mesmeric influence, that painless surgical operations, and other medical benefits from mesmerism, are their natural birthright?

There is reason to believe that the African constitution is equally susceptible, and if Europeans cannot be so readily subdued, it is only a question of degree, (the human constitution being radically the same all over the world,) and the depressing influence of disease will be found to reduce them very often to the impressible condition of the nervous system so common among the Eastern nations.

If the gentlemen who so liberally invite me to repeat in their hospitals what I have done in India, will condescend to follow the example of so humble an individual as myself, they will, as I did, commence by expressing their ignorance of the subject, and will experiment for themselves in their own hospitals. I have not returned to my native land, to practise either medicine or mesmerism, and far less to perform other people's duty. You have been told all along by your journals, Gentlemen, that your medical brethren engaged in studying mesmerism, are either fools or advertising quacks. But how men, like Dr. Gregory and myself, who neither want nor

will accept private practice, can be reduced to the category of quacks, I do not well see; and if we are fools, we ought to be encouraged to write ourselves down such, as the speediest and most effectual way of exposing us. I am convinced, Gentlemen, that you and I are agreed in one point, namely, liking to be allowed to judge for ourselves, and that you will not submit to be hoodwinked and led by the nose, by the persons we pay to keep us well informed of new facts, and the progress made in our profession all over the world.

To pretend that there is a *Free Medical Press* in Great Britain at this moment, is a mockery and a delusion. And the proof of this is, that medical men who pledge their unblemished private and professional reputation for the truth of their statements, are not allowed to be heard by you in your Professional Organs, if what they advance is contrary to the prejudices and foregone conclusions of the Editors; and the men who give you the security of a good name for their good faith, are vilified, and the attempt is made to starve them into silence and submission, by nameless and irresponsible writers, who erect themselves for the nonce, into the philosophers and guides of the medical world, though in general practically unacquainted with the subject they pretend to decide upon.

In vindication of what I have now said, permit me to present you, Gentlemen, with a "*bouquet*" of night flowers culled from the pages of different Medical Journals.

"The mesmero-mania has nearly dwindled in the metropolis into senile fatuity; but lingers in some of the provinces with the *gobe-mouches* and chaw-bacons, who, after gulping down a pound of fat pork, would, with well-greased gullets, swallow such a lot of mesmeric mummery as would choke an alligator or a boa-constrictor."—*Medico-Chirurgical Review*, 1843.

"The science of mesmerism, like the science of fortune-telling, will always carry on a precarious existence, wherever there are clever girls, philosophic Bohemians, weak women, weaker men: but it can no longer affront the common sense of the Medical profession, or dare to show its face in the scientific Societies after the last exposure."—*Lancet*, 1838.

"Pass a few short months, and the delusion stands exposed; the actors are declared to be deceivers or deceived; the facts so lately boasted of are trampled upon with contempt; and the doctrines built upon them are laughed to scorn."—*British and Foreign Medical Review*, 1839.

"We cannot publish any paper on the subject of such an odious fraud as mesmerism."—*Lancet*, 1848.

"Dr. Fluder need be under no apprehension of an attack in the Mesmeric Magazine, affecting him in the opinion of the profession. The Journal only finds circulation among the class of impostors who record their doings in it."—*Medical Gazette*, 1845.

"We pledge ourselves, before we lay aside the subject, to show that there is nothing but the old staple of all quackery —bold assertions, half-observed facts, and multifarious inventions."—*The Institute*, 1850.

"But for divines, mesmerism, homœopathy, and such like lying spirits, would have been long since laid in the bottomless pit of oblivion."—*Medical Times*, 1851, &c. &c.

The black stream of abuse, instead of purifying itself as it flows, only becomes more fetid and abominable from the contents of the different tributary sewers poured into it, and one is at a loss to decide—

> "Who the most in love of dirt excel,
> Or dark dexterity of groping well—
> Who flings most filth, and wide pollutes around
> The stream."

Would not one suppose that the illustrious Harvey was describing the conduct of our modern Medical Journals in the following passage?

"Some are clamorous with groundless and fictitious opinions on the authority of their teachers, plausible suppositions, or empty quibbles: and some rail with a torrent of expressions which are discreditable to them, often spiteful, insolent, and abusive, by which they only display their own emptiness, absurdity, bad habits, and want of argument, and show themselves mad with sophistries opposed to reason."

Thus it has ever been! The ancient knowledge has always

persecuted the new, and persons calling themselves *philosophers*, and who cry out against intolerance and fanaticism in others, have no tolerance themselves, except for opinions which do not clash with their pre-conceived notions. Those who live by the wisdom of their ancestors, and by chiseling and polishing all systems, howl against and persecute the discoverer of any new truth which disturbs their successful routine, wounds their self-love, and endangers their easy gains.

In matters of taste and opinion, anonymous writing can do little harm. But it is a gross abuse of it when anonymous writers deny, point blank, scientific facts, for the truth of which honest and competent observers have made themselves responsible to the public. This is equally absurd and unfair, and it is amazing how it is tolerated by professional men in *Scientific Journals*. Not only is anonymous contradiction worthless in scientific enquiries, when opposed to the positive statements of qualified and responsible witnesses, but the authority of men of the highest professional eminence is equally inadmissible, when a subject is quite new to them, and cannot be illustrated by their former studies and experience. "It is a very obvious principle," says Dr. Chalmers, "although often forgotten in the pride of prejudice and controversy, that what has been seen by one pair of eyes, is of force to countervail all that has been reasoned or guessed at by a thousand human understandings."

Your Editors are heartily welcome to *strike*, if they will only permit *you to hear*, Gentlemen.

How long, may it be permitted me to ask, will the independent members of a liberal profession permit themselves to be kept in the dark, by persons whose object is to stave off all knowledge of an important subject which they had ignorantly and rashly prejudged, and who hope to escape to oblivion before the profession and the public they have misled can be enlightened?

I have much more to say to you, Gentlemen, as soon as there shall be a *Free Trade in medical knowledge;* for I cannot afford to seek your approbation at the expense of a pamphlet whenever I have any information to communicate to you.

The medical department of mesmerism is only a fractional part of its interest to reflecting minds; for it is replete with instruction to the physiologist, the metaphysician, and the natural philosopher. It will soon be as absurd for teachers, and writers on physics and metaphysics, to leave out of account the mesmeric phenomena, as it would be at present to omit all notice of the circulation of the blood in a description of the human body.

Surely it will not be possible to say, much longer, that the medical men and natural philosophers of England pride themselves upon being ignorant of the existence of a great natural power, which throws a new light on the nature of man; disclosing his secret relations and sympathies with his fellow-men and surrounding nature, and exceeding in interest all the drugs in the pharmacopœia, from its being an inherent power of the human system. This useful moral may be drawn from my story,—*That to tell the truth and stick to it, may even be a good mercantile speculation.*

Truth is the protection of every one who holds by it, and because I did so, it made me first a Presidency Surgeon of Calcutta, and soon after, Marine Surgeon; the two places most coveted in the public service for the opportunities they afford of making a fortune by private practice. That I did not remain to profit by such good fortune, was my humour; but others might, and would, have made handsome fortunes in my circumstances.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.

GARRY COTTAGE, PERTH,
10*th March* 1852.

CHAP. I.

MESMERIC SURGERY.

CONSIDERING the prejudiees entertained against mesmerism, and the eontemptuous manner in which the subject has been hitherto treated by the Medieal Press, it is greatly to Dr. Simpson's honour that he should have requested me to furnish him with an aceount of my mesmeric experience in India, for publieation in the Journal he is connected with.

Mesmerism has been so completely a *tabooed* subject by the Medical Press, that the readers of this Paper will be astonished to learn, that while mesmerism and its cultivators were treated with contumely and ridicule in England, three sueeessive Governors of Bengal, Sir Herbert Maddock, the Marquis of Dalhousie, and Sir John Littler, were publicly aeknowledging its importanee, eneouraging its introduetion into the Government Hospitals, and rewarding the person who introdueed mesmerism into India. This result was not brought about by addressing the passions of the public, and by flattering professional prejudiees. The only levers I have used, by which to move the minds of men, have been truth, reason, and the natural sense of justice,—and on these I still exclusively rely. It is impossible that sueh notorious facts ean be much longer coneealed, and the attempt to do so must be ruinous to the reputation of any professional Journal.

It will not be thought to detraet from the intended practical eharaeter of this Paper, I hope, if I give a short "*résumé*" of the rise, progress, and establishment of mesmerism in India, as an anæsthetic and eurative agent.

In April 1845 I reported my first mesmeric sueeesses in the Caleutta Medieal Journal; and as my whole subsequent proceedings were determined by the results of my first experiments, it is necessary to relate shortly how I became praetically aequainted with mesmerism.

At the time of making my first experiment, I had never seen any one mesmerised, nor read a mesmerie book, and had only eonversed with one person who had witnessed the mesmeric phenomena. My informant, being a trustworthy gentleman, excited my euriosity; but as I could get no books upon the subjeet, I determined to experiment for myself, leaving the when and the how undetermined. Accident deeided this for me, and under circumstances that precluded the possibility of mistake.

On the 4th April 1845, a Hindoo of the lowest caste was brought to the hospital with a double hydroeele. The water was drawn off one side of the scrotum, and two drachms of the usual eorrosive sublimate injeetion were thrown in. On feeling the pain from the injeetion, the man threw his head over the back of the ehair, and pressed his hands firmly upon his groins, making the grimaces of a person in pain. Seeing him suffering in this way, it oeeurred to me to attempt to mesmerise him; and turning to my native assistant, I asked him if he had ever seen a person mesmerised? He said that he had seen it attempted in the Medical College, Calcutta, but without suecess. "I have a great mind to try it on this man," I said, "but as I never saw it done, I shall probably not succeed." Without a word said to the man, (his eyes being still closed,) I began to make passes from the crown of his head to the pit of his stomaeh, without touehing him. I eontinued this for half an hour, and then gave it up in despair, seeing no sensible effect. While resting myself, (the thermometer being 85°,) I desired the man to open his eyes, and he said that he saw *smoke*. This roused my attention, and tempted me to persevere, as I had heard of the *mesmeric haze*. He shortly removed his hands from the groins, crossed his arms on his breast, and all signs of uneasiness disappeared. In half an hour more he took no notice of my questions, and remained

perfeetly passive while I drove a pin into the small of his baek. Latterly, his baek began to areh baekwards, and he was now in a state of "*opisthotonos*," the nape of his neek resting on the baek of the ehair, and his breeeh on the edge of the seat. Being now eonvineed that we had got something extraordinary, I went over to the adjaeent eourt-house, and begged the judge and eolleetor of the distriet to eome over to the hospital. We found him in the same position I had left him in, and no hallooing eould attraet his attention. Fire was applied to his knee without his shrinking in the least, and liquor ammoniæ, that brought tears into our eyes in a moment, was inhaled by him for some minutes without eausing an eyelid to quiver. I now bent his head forward, and plaeed his eyes in front of a mid-day Indian sun. On opening the eyelids, the pupils were seen to be dilated as if by belladonna, *and the light produced no effect whatever upon the iris.* We were all now quite satisfied that total insensibility of all the senses existed, and left him. He awoke after three hours, and had no reeolleetion of anything that had happened.

On the 6th April, the inflammation was very high, and the part exquisitely tender to the toueh. I therefore attempted to mesmerise him again, and in three quarters of an hour the eoma was established, and I squeezed the inflamed part with as little effeet as if it had been an India rubber bottle.

When he had reeovered from the first operation, I determined to perform the seeond one under the mesmerie influenee, if possible, and invited all the European gentlemen in the neighbourhood to be present. Our sueeess was eomplete. He was operated on at 3 o'eloek p.m., and did not awake till 12 o'eloek at night. The same insensibility of the iris and of the inflamed part was repeatedly witnessed, and eonelusively proved on the seeond oeeasion also. The limbs, throughout these experiments, were as flexible as those of a person killed by lightning, and the joints were all as passive as door-hinges.

From a eareful survey of all the attending eireumstanees of this ease, I felt eonfident—

I. That it was morally and physically impossible that the man eould be an impostor, inasmueh as he eould not imitate

what he had never heard of. But, allowing that he had suppressed all expression of pain by a powerful effort of his will, it was absurd to suppose that he could, by any *act of volition, controul the movements of an involuntary organ like the iris.*

II. That, as the man could not possibly imagine what was expected, there could be no imagination at work in the matter.

III. That there was no consent or mental sympathy between the parties; and it has been seen that there was *no suggestion.*

IV. That it was not necessary for the patient's eyes to be open.

From these conclusions I inferred, that the influence exerted by me was of a purely physical nature; and that if persons could be reduced to this degree of coma by the mesmeric processes, it would be possible to perform the most severe surgical operations without their knowledge; and that the muscular system being perfectly passive, it would greatly assist us in overcoming muscular and ligamentous contractions of the limbs. It also appeared probable to me, that if the trance could be sufficiently prolonged, active inflammations might be resolved by the natural curative powers of the system in the absence of all pain and irritation, which are the fuel that support inflammatory action.

It was also a very easy inference, that such a power must be extensively useful as a general curative agent; for, if asked "what power I most coveted for the cure of disease," I should have replied, "Enable me to make people sleep as long as I please, without any of the subsequent evil effects from narcotics, and I will engage to cure a great variety of diseases by this remedy alone."

I shall now proceed to shew whether these conclusions and inferences were well founded, for I lost no time in testing them all by actual experiment.

Having ascertained from my first case that coma might be induced with the patient's eyes closed, and feeling the necessity of an easy attitude for both parties when one had to labour for an hour at a time perhaps, I mesmerised my next patient lying in bed with his eyes closed, and in a darkened room.

If the eye were not necessary, I concluded that it would probably be a source of distraction; and the sitting position was also objectionable for the same reason, as a person instinctively resists going to sleep in the erect posture. As my object was to obtain a perfectly passive unresisting state of mind and body, I also suspected that absolute ignorance of the subject, and of my intentions, would favour my views, as the patient's mind would not be excited by curiosity, or alarmed at the expected consequences. In my second case, all these conditions were therefore observed, and with such success that it was adopted as the routine practice by which I have since performed nearly three hundred capital operations of every description, without the knowledge of the patient.

The following is the routine observed in the six different hospitals in which I have practised mesmerism; and if the plan has any advantage over the European method, I presume it is from the more intimate and extensive connection established between the two systems; the bodies of both parties being usually naked to the waist, is also of service, no doubt.

The patient is desired to lie down in bed in a darkened room, and go to sleep if he can; his head is brought to one end of the bed, and the mesmeriser seats himself so as to be able to breathe upon the head, and extend his hands readily to the pit of the stomach. He then begins making passes from the back of the head down to the pit of the stomach, breathing gently on the head and eyes also. The fingers are held loosely in the shape of claws, and are carried slowly over the parts, at the distance of an inch from the surface, dwelling longer over the eyes, nose, mouth, and sides of the neck; and on reaching the pit of the stomach, the hands are suspended there some minutes. Having continued this process for a quarter or half an hour, the passes may be advantageously ended by pressing both hands lightly on the pit of the stomach for some minutes.

As I spared neither mind nor body in the wonder-working labour, I found myself, at the end of six weeks, suffering from extreme nervous exhaustion, accompanied with irritability and sleeplessness. Conceiving that mesmerism was already rich

enough in martyrs, and perceiving that, if I wished to live to witness its triumph, it would be necessary to refrain from its practice, I foreswore it thenceforth, and have only put out my hand occasionally for experiment ever since. Feeling confident that I could not be a *chosen vessel*, but that all men possessed the power, more or less, if they knew how to use it, I set my hospital attendants, door-keepers, and cooks, all to work upon patients in both my hospitals; and, one by one, they reduced their subjects to insensibility, when I operated upon those that needed it.

But before relinquishing the labour of mesmerising, I had reduced about a score of persons to the state of coma, and performed a variety of operations upon them without their knowledge or consent. The following is an apt and striking example of this, and occurred at the commencement of my mesmeric experiments:—

Modoomohun Roy, a fine Hindoo boy, twelve years old, was brought to the hospital with a compound fracture of both bones of the fore-arm. Matter had formed, and the wound required to be enlarged upwards and downwards. As he was apprehensive, I put a piece of wet cloth over his eyes, telling him it would cool his brain, and went on with my hospital affairs. The people were all dismissed, and approaching him unobserved, I succeeded in entrancing him in ten minutes, and laid open the arm without disturbing him in the least. I returned after three hours, and found him still sleeping. He shortly awoke, and said the pain was much less, and that no one had hurt him that day.

So deplorably ignorant was I, pending the arrival of books which I had ordered from England and France, that I availed myself, in my first operations, of the earliest moment to operate, lest the patients should escape from my influence. But it soon became apparent that, instead of this, each trial increased my influence, and the sleep was easier induced daily, till at last a few passes sufficed to produce coma. New and unlooked for phenomena presented themselves daily; and it was very agreeable for me to imagine that I was making original discoveries and observations. But alas! with the works

of Puysegur, Deleuze, Bertrand, Lambert, Dupotet, Teste, Colquhoun, Newnham, Townshend, Sandby, the *Zoist*, &c., came the mortifying knowledge, that I had only, for the most part, been repeating what had been equally well done, and faithfully recorded long ago. But it was something to have reduced painless surgery to a regular system by this time, sufficient for the wants of the people of Bengal generally.

Hooghly, where my experiments were commenced, being a small obscure country station, I was compelled to appear frequently before the public in the invidious character of my own chronicler, or permit the important facts that fell under my observation daily, to die in obscurity. I was soon saved this disagreeable task, however, by the visitors of my hospitals voluntarily and pressingly coming forward, in their own names, to vouch for the reality of the facts reported by me. They were gentlemen of all professions, and generally strangers to me; and the reader would perhaps like to compare their statements with mine, to see how far presumed *enthusiasm* or *partizanship* had perverted my senses, or obscured my judgment. As I am writing for a professional Journal, I will only here quote the evidence of medical men :—

"June 2d, 1846.

"Sir,

"There is now no Medical Journal at this Presidency, I will therefore trouble you to publish this narrative. It must interest all men, for all are liable to suffer.

"I heard from an ex-student of the Medical College, that Dr. Esdaile was about to perform some operations in surgery during the mesmeric trance. I set off, thinking that no medical man is justified in neglecting any opportunities that may advance his knowledge in medical science, and of the best method of relieving human suffering.

"I found on arrival at the famed Imambarrah Hospital, the compound was full of carriages, and that I was not the only disciple of Esculapius who thought it worth while to go fifty miles in search of truth.

"One of the Presidency surgeons, Dr. Chalmers; the Secretary to the Council of Education, Dr. Mowat; the Civil Sur-

geon of Howrah, Dr. Green; besides Dr. M'Rae, and I daresay many others, had braved the terrors of a burning sun to arrive at Hooghly by 11 o'clock. But there were others beside medical spectators, reverend clergymen, civilians, military men, merchants, and men of science.

"On passing into the operating-room, (an open place on one side of a square open court,) the patients to be operated upon were seen sleeping profoundly; at the head of each bed, leaning over the patients, were the native mesmerisers in full operation.

"At a signal from the Doctor, the first man was brought out on his bed for the removal of a large elephantoid tumour; the very size of which appeared to astonish some of the spectators. Dr. Esdaile very coolly set about removing it, and he worked with a leisurely manner that convinced me he had the most certain conviction that he was giving no pain, and therefore in no hurry. The man never awoke,—but with the exception of one or two uneasy starts, such as one sees in an uneasy dream,—he lay perfectly still, and the regular pulse and regular respiration continued to the end of the operation, in which, besides the mass of disease, organs were removed endowed with exquisite sensibility. Now this man was laid on one side, and removed on his bed to the side of the same room.

"The Doctor, 'all dabbled with blood,' a gory spectacle to those who could see, ordered out another man from the back of the room. Now this is so contrary to our usual managements and concealments, as to be very striking. The same nonchalance was evident in Dr. Esdaile's manner of handling a horrible case of cancer, and even striking in his knife, just to ascertain how far the disease extended. This mass, which here also was removed, included the same parts, and was equally endowed with exquisite sensibility. The man never awoke,—never, so far as I recollect, even started, and slept quietly afterwards, just as before the operation. He and his bed were removed to the other side of the room also. The Doctor, it was clear, never thought of shocking a third man, who was next brought forward, unappalled by the Doctor's shirt sleeves, now of a pretty uniform crimson. A large,

deep, ragged ulcer under the heel, was pared down as eoolly as a farrier pares down a horse's hoof. He never stirred, slept like a ehild, and when the Doetor left his hoof pared, there it lay bleeding, but with a very respeetable finish given to it. Had the man been sensible, this would have been torture so exerueiating, that I have heard the hospital ring with the shrieks of patients for whom it was neeessary.

" By and bye, the other sleepers awoke; eaeh and all declared publiely, when they were questioned in Bengalese by the Rev. Mr. La Croix, that they knew nothing nor felt anything whatever of the operations.

" I have seen many who have undergone these serious mutilations whieh they suffered, with the eold sweat of agony bubbling up for hours afterwards; and a pulse so depressed, that it was hazardous to move them; whereas these were quite ehatty and lively. Dr. Esdaile explained his reasons (very weighty) for not having ineluded the amputation of a woman's leg in the day's performanees. The delay would have been dangerous; she also did not suffer a pang. I eannot but state my firm eonvietion, after having seen the woman, that she must have died if operated on in the usual manner. This person, and the large elephantoid tumour case, were not only saved pain, but a vast amount of vital depression, which might in either ease have proved fatal.

" Now, I have simply stated these faets, as a testimony to the important benefits Dr. Esdaile is eonferring upon the poor and wretehed natives. He does not mesmerise these; he teaehes others, and they do it so effeetually, that the Doetor never onee looked at any of his patients whilst operating. He seems perfectly assured that they are spell-bound,—nobody holds them down. They might kiek as mueh as they like,—but they do not stir. He is not afraid of the others being awoke by their shrieks. He never puts them in different rooms; they who have been operated upon, and they who are to be operated upon, are all in the same room. People talk as loud as they like,—nay, even laugh,—and that awe whieh the hardiest usually experienee at the sight of human suffering, is here quite banished.

"In fine, that which makes the boldest and best of us recoil from surgieal interferenee so long as we possibly can, whieh makes almost all native patients resist until life and limb are lost together, no longer exists. The natural dread of pain is entirely removed; there is no resistanee of the muselcs; no rebellious starting at the most eritieal moment.

"It is, I believe, with mesmerism, quite as easy to operate upon the living as upon the dead.

"I eannot conceive, it is hardly possible to tell, how much good may be effected by those whose high moral eonseientiousness confines the operation of their wonderful power to an use which we cannot but look upon as legitimate. And the satisfaetion of having contributed to so great an amount of alleviation to human pain and misery, will, I cannot doubt, afford higher gratifieation to Dr. Esdaile, than the honour even of introdueing into India, this wonderful improvement in operative surgery.

"ALLAN WEBB,
"*Prof. Demon. Anat.*

"Medical College."

Dr. Mouat, also one of the Professors in the Medieal College, Calcutta, wrote the following letter, descriptive of what he saw in my hospital, and it was published at the time in the "*Zoist.*"

"Calcutta, July 4, 1846.

"My dear Mr. Elliotson,—My eonscienee has long been upbraiding me for not having written to report to you the great progress which mesmerism has recently been making in this distant neighbourhood; but, in truth, I am so oppressed by public duties as to have been compelled to abandon all private correspondenee for the last two years. I reeently, however, had an opportunity of visiting Hooghly, and witnessing some of Dr. Esdaile's operations, whieh I eannot refrain from mentioning to you, as they *completely convinced me of their perfect freedom from pain or suffering of any kind to the patients* who were the subjeets of them. I wrote Dr. Esdaile a brief note, which he published in the newspapers here, and of which I

send you a copy by the present mail. The surgical details of the cases he will himself publish. The tumour removed, together with the diseased testes, must have weighed at least 50 lbs.; the cancer of the colis was a dreadful-looking mass of disease; and the paring of the ulcerated heel, about as painful an application of the knife as could be resorted to; yet, in each and all, there was *entire absence of every—even the slightest—indication* of physical suffering. I not only *satisfied myself* of this, but *carefully watched every movement of the patients to discover the faintest ray of feeling, but without success.* Dr. Esdaile has, as you are aware, now performed more than one hundred mesmeric operations; and so great is his success, as well as the confidence which the natives far and wide have in his skill, humanity, and the painless nature of his cures, that *scarcely a case of elephantiasis of the scrotum is now to be met with in a Calcutta hospital. People of all classes, and with every species of ailments, are resorting to him,* and, in most instances, with benefit to themselves. He is one of the most able, well-read, and proficient members of the Bengal Medical Service, and I am quite sure his successful pursuit of the subject for which you have sacrificed so much, will be a great and true source of delight to you.

"With every sincere wish for your health and happiness, believe me,

"Ever yours most truly,

"Frederick J. Mouat.

"J. Elliotson, Esq., M.D., &c. &c. &c."

I am indebted for the notes of the following remarkable operation to Dr. Stewart, Professor of Midwifery in the Medical College—

Hurronundo Saha, aged 27, hearing that I was in Calcutta, came to the native hospital on the 9th October 1846, with an enormous scrotal tumour. It measured *seven feet* in circumference, and *two feet* round its neck. Although the tumour was as large as his whole body, (he is about eight stone in weight,) he was in tolerable condition, and his constitution did not seem much broken. The operation was performed on

the 14th October, and the mass, half an hour after its removal, weighed *one hundred and three pounds.*

Dr. Stewart's Notes of Dr. Esdaile's Mesmeric Operation on 14th October.

"The time occupied in the operation was six minutes, including the application of ligatures to the spermatic arteries, and three or four other vessels that spouted.

"The arterial hæmorrhage was very small indeed, but the welling of blood at the moment of each transverse cut was appalling, the loss could not have been less than 10 or 12 lbs. The patient remained throughout most perfectly still and motionless. I held his pulse the whole time, and counted it carefully. Immediately on the removal of the tumour, it sank to zero; his face became pale, and cold sweat bedewed his forehead; and it was not till his head was lowered by the withdrawal of one or two pillows that he recovered from the collapse caused by so sudden and great a withdrawal of vital stimulus from the heart and brain.

"The pulse gradually returned, and was found, when first counted, to be 120, very small, compressible and intermitting, but there was not the slightest evidence of consciousness or of pain.

"It was now deemed necessary by Dr. Taylor and myself to pour some wine and hartshorn down his throat; but as he could not swallow in this state, it was allowed us to dash cold water in his face, blow in his eyes, and fan him, by which means he awoke from his trance, recovered sufficient sensibility to drink some brandy and water, and presently subsided into perfect repose; the pulse, however, remaining very weak, and settling at 100. No active hæmorrhage ensued with this reaction, but two or three more small vessels were tied, and cold wet cloths were applied to the raw surface. The patient was then carefully removed to a clean bed.

"In the course of the afternoon, as I was informed, some symptoms of collapse occurred, such as vomiting and restlessness, and some seven or eight more vessels were successively

secured by the assistants who remained in watchful charge of him. He passed a good night; the wound was stitched and strapped the following day; and on visiting him this morning, I found him looking composed, and sleeping soundly, the parts looking well, and with every prospect of a most successful cure." (Signed) "D. STEWART, M.D.

"*Presidency Surgeon.*"

"*Calcutta*, 16*th October* 1846."

"The following gentlemen, besides a room full of natives, were present,—

"Mr. Halliday, Mr. Beadon, Mr. Hume, Mr. Young, Dr. M'Pherson, Dr. Jackson, Dr. D. Stewart, Dr. Burt, Dr. R. Stuart, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Huffnagle, Mr. Foy, Mr. Watson."

When I left Calcutta, this man was well and fat. By the end of nine months, I had performed seventy-five painless mesmeric operations; which fact I reported officially to the Medical Board, offering at the same time to satisfy the members of the Board of the accuracy of my representations by ocular demonstration. But the Board did not condescend even to notice the receipt of my Report. Having, at the end of the first year, accumulated more than one hundred painless operations, I made a Report upon the subject to the Government direct, and offered "to satisfy any number of persons in whom the Government had confidence, of the truth of my statements." The Deputy-Governor, Sir Herbert Maddock, thereupon ordered a committee, composed of three medical and three unprofessional gentlemen, with a member of the Medical Board for their president, to witness and report upon mesmeric operations to be performed by me in their presence; and I came down to Calcutta from Hooghly to take my trial. All the cases requiring operation in the native hospital, Calcutta, during a fortnight, were subjected to mesmeric treatment; and this is the conclusion of the Committee's report to Government:—

"The general result arrived at, then, on the question of pain during the mesmeric surgical operations we witnessed, amounts

to this, that in three eases there is no proof whatever that any pain was suffered, and that in the three other cases *the manifestations of pain during the operation are opposed by the positive statement of the patient that no pain was experienced.*"

Upon the reeeipt of the Committee's Report, the intentions of the Government were thus intimated to the President by the Seeretary to the Government of Bengal :—

"The Committee's Report has been ordered to be published, and the Deputy-Governor entirely eoncurs with the remark of the President in Council, that it is suffieient for the present that it should be allowed to work its own way towards produeing eonviction among the profession and the public; and that, at this stage, any more direct eneouragement on the part of Government to the general introduction of the mesmeric praetiee would be premature. But so far has the possibility of rendering the most serious surgical operations painless to the subjeet of them, been, in his Honour's opinion, established by the late experiments performed under the eye of a Committee appointed for the purpose, as to render it ineumbent on the Government to afford to the meritorious and zealous officer by whom the subject was first brought to its notice such assistance as may faeilitate his investigations, and enable him to proseeute his interesting experiments under the most favourable and promising cireumstances.

"With this view his Honour has determined, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, to place Dr. Esdaile for one year in charge of a small experimental hospital in some favourable situation in Calcutta, in order that he may, as reeommended by the Committee, extend his investigations to the applieability of this alleged ageney to all deseriptions of eases, medical as well as surgical, and all classes of patients, European as well as native. Dr. Esdaile will be directed to encourage the resort to his hospital of all respectable persons, especially medieal and scientifie, whether in or out of the Service, who may be desirous of satisfying themselves of the nature and the effect of his experiments, and his Honour will nominate, from among the Medical Officers of the Presidency, 'Visitors,' whose duty it will be to visit the hospital from time to time, inspect

Dr. Esdaile's proceedings, without exercising any interference, and occasionally, or when called on, report upon them, through the Medical Board, for the information of Government. On these reports will mainly depend what further steps the Government may deem it expedient to take in the matter.

"I have the honour to be,
"Gentlemen,
"Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) "FRED. JAS. HALLIDAY,
"*Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.*"

By the end of the year of experiment, Lord Dalhousie had arrived; and though overwhelmed with business, he found time to read all the Hospital Reports, as well as those of the "visitors," and made up his mind from documentary evidence alone. Having favoured me with an interview, he expressed himself perfectly satisfied; and on my offering to add the evidence of his senses, he said, "That is perfectly superfluous,—there can be no doubt about the matter." Soon after this, I had the honour of an invitation to Government House; and in the course of the evening, his Lordship congratulated me upon being appointed a Presidency Surgeon of Calcutta; and in reply to my thanks, he was pleased to say,—"You have nothing to thank me for, Dr. Esdaile;—you have only to thank yourself: I have only done an act of justice."

As my new appointment had no hospital attached to it, the principal native inhabitants of Calcutta petitioned his Lordship to make the Experimental Hospital a permanent public institution. But his Lordship declined to gratify them, on the principle of teaching them to help themselves,—a lesson that has yet to be learned by our Indian fellow-subjects. His Lordship's views were, however, realised, and a Mesmeric Hospital, supported by public subscription, was, with little difficulty, established, and placed under my superintendence.

This Subscription Hospital was closed at the end of eighteen months, in consequence of Sir John Littler, the Deputy-Governor, being pleased to appoint me Superintendant of one of the Government Hospitals, for the express purpose of en-

abling me to introduce mesmerism into regular hospital practice.

Sir John took a great interest in our proceedings, and came often to the hospital, accompanied by his staff and friends, to witness mesmeric operations, and always expressed in the highest terms his astonishment and delight at what he saw.

During the eighteen months the Subscription Hospital was open, eighty-four capital operations were performed in it; and nature, I have no doubt, is still running the same course in my absence, as I had the gratification, before leaving Calcutta, to see Dr. Webb, Professor of Demonstrative Anatomy in the Medical College, gazetted as my successor in the hospital,—than whom there can be no fitter person, from his knowledge of the subject, and the interest he has long taken in it.

The following is a list of the mesmeric operations performed by me in the hospitals of Hooghly and Calcutta:—

Amputation of thigh, - - - -	2.
... ... leg, - - - - -	1.
... ... arm, - - - - -	2.
... ... breast; one 7, another 10 lbs. weight,	4.
... ... thumb, - - - -	1.
... ... great toe, - - - -	1.
... ... penis, - - - -	3.
... ... one testis, - - - -	3.
... ... two do. - - - -	2.
... ... enlarged clitoris and nymphæ, -	1.
... ... Scrotal tumours of all sizes, from 10 lbs. to 103 lbs. weight, -	200.
Cancer of cheek extirpated, - - - -	1.
... ... eyeball do. - - -	1.
... ... scrotum do. - - -	2.
Cartilaginous tumours on the ears removed, -	2.
Cataracts operated on, - - -	3.
End of bone in a compound fracture sawn off,	1.
End of thumb cut off, - - -	1.
Great-toe nails cut out by the roots, - -	5.
Gum cut away, - - - - -	1.

Heels flayed, - - - -	3.
Hypertrophy of penis removed, - -	3.
... ... prepuee do. - - -	1.
Lithotomy, - - - - -	1.
Lithotrity, - - - - -	1.
Piles, suppurating, eut out, - - -	2.
Prolapsus ani, the size of a ehild's head, redueed in the tranee, - - - -	1.
Strangulated hernia redueed in do. - -	3.
Straitened eontraeted arms in do. - -	3.
... ... knees in do. - -	3.
Tumour in the groin removed (a fungoid undescended testis), - - - - -	1.
Tumour in the antrum maxillare do. - -	1.
Tumour on leg do. - - - -	1.
Total, - - - - -	261.

No aeeount has been kept of abseesses opened, teeth drawn, nitrie aeid applied to large wounds, hydroceles operated on, setons introdueed, unhealthy sores pared down in the trance, &e.

Regarding the important point of ultimate mortality, the results have been very satisfaetory, and well deserve the attention of the praetieal surgeon. The deaths in 200 operations for the removal of serotal tumours, weighing from 10 to 103 lbs., have been 5 per eent. But it is an extraordinary eircumstance, that though at least 20 of the tumours were of all sizes, from 50 to 103 lbs. weight, and many of the patients were 50, and several of them 60 years of age, yet in no instanee was death eaused directly by the operation, but took place after many days or weeks, in eonsequenee of lock-jaw, fever and dysentery, cholera, and ultimate exhaustion of the system,—from what may be ealled hospital diseases and aeeidents.

The deaths among the other operations amounted to 4.

In concluding the surgieal part of the subjeet, I beg to state, that I have never seen, (nor has any one else,) any bad effeets

to attend or follow upon operations performed in the mesmeric trance; and that the influence is essentially of a strengthening, instead of a depressing nature. It strengthens the patient for the operation, protects him during it, and facilitates his recovery by permitting painless dressing of his wounds, and being the best and speediest anodyne when he suffers from local pains. For the system becomes very sensitive during convalescence after severe operations, and a few passes are often more speedy and efficacious in procuring sleep and allaying pain than the most powerful narcotics.

The medical application of mesmerism, with many important facts illustrative of the source and nature of the mesmeric influence, I must reserve for another chapter.

CHAP. II.

MESMERISM AS A REMEDY.

The importance of mesmerism in medicine is greater than in surgery even, in proportion to the greater frequency of medical than of surgical diseases, and the benefit may often be derived with much less labour.

But mesmerism is placed in a false position, when it is dissevered from the healing art as already known. It is only an extension of our knowledge of the human constitution and the laws of nature, often capable, it is true, of effecting wonders alone; but where this is not the case, it readily enters into numerous combinations for raising the general vitality of the system, and therefore it cannot be too soon incorporated into the general body of the healing art.

The medical part of the subject is beset with greater difficulties than the surgical, because when the effects are not speedy, it may often be reasonably supposed, that *time* and not *mesmerism* has been the curative agent. To get rid of this source of fallacy, I would willingly test the alleged curative influence of mesmerism, by its power of extinguishing local pain and subduing general excitement of the system, as shewn in the mesmeric treatment of painful surgical cases, in which it was resorted to solely for the purpose of inducing insensibility to the necessary operations. And in the examination of its medical pretensions, I am willing that all chronic complaints should be thrown overboard, and that it should be judged by its occasional effects in curing or relieving *acute medical diseases.*

The following cases, from my Hospital Reports, will illustrate both these points.

Cases of severe pain and disturbance of the system subdued by the mesmeric trance previous to operation.

A peasant suffering from an immense tumour of the *antrum maxillare* came to the hospital. The disease commenced two years before; it had pushed one eye nearly out of its socket, and having destroyed the septum of the nose, it had passed into his throat, preventing him from sleeping in the recumbent posture. He said that he had not slept for five months. I placed him in an arm chair, and at the end of three quarters of an hour, the man was totally unconscious, and I performed one of the most painful and protracted operations in surgery without his knowing anything about it.

In a case of compound fracture of the thigh, ending in mortification, an amputation of the thigh was performed at the end of two hours mesmerising.

In another case of amputation of the thigh, reported to Government by the Mesmeric Committee, the operation was performed within the time set by the committee, twenty-four hours. The man's foot had been burned off.

A woman, suffering great pain from caries of the ankle joint, was subdued on the first day. The operation was reported by Mr. Simms, civil engineer to the Indian Government.

An arm was amputated for open *fungus hematodes*, that had recently been cauterised all over with a red-hot iron to stop the bleeding, after one hour's mesmerising.

Two open cancers were ready for operation at the end of the first day's mesmerising.

A prodigious schirrous and inflamed testis, complicated

with hernia that could not be returned on account of the pain, was removed after two hours' mesmerising, the gut having been easily returned without pain previously.

A large ulcerated tumour in the groin, filled with maggots, was removed after an hour's mesmerising.

The end of a bone in a compound fracture was sawn off on the first day.

A man, who had hardly slept for a year, from the pains of the stone, was subdued on the first day.

A man, suffering from a schirrous and inflamed testis, was entranced on the first day.

A boy, who had his great-toe crushed by a boat, was also entranced on the first attempt.

Even if mesmerism were superseded for surgical purposes by some perfectly innocent drug, it would still be of great service to the surgeon in the *medical treatment of surgical diseases;* for by its aid he will often be able to save his patients much pain and distress during their recovery after operations, and even sometimes be spared the painful necessity of performing dangerous operations at all, of which the following is an example:—A Brahmin came to the hospital with a strangulated hernia, attended with the usual pain, constipation, and vomiting; the gut had been down for twenty-four hours. I exhausted myself in vain attempts to return it; and then, desiring him to be entranced if possible, I left the hospital. Hearing nothing more of him that day, I went next morning to the hospital, fearing to be obliged to operate upon him; but was relieved by being told, that he had been entranced within an hour; that the bowel then went up of itself, without awaking him; and that having slept for an hour afterwards, he then got up, had a natural relief, and went home quite well.

This is the third case of the kind that occurred, and is readily explained by the complete relaxation of the abdominal

muscles in the mesmeric trance, by which the cavity of the abdomen was restored to its natural dimensions, and room made for the protruded bowel to return. The following is an analogous case:—

A peasant was brought to my house from a distance in the country by his friends. He was suffering from a prodigious *prolapsus ani*, that had been down for three days, and he had not tasted food all this time. The tumour was a big as a child's head, and so congested that it felt like cartilage. I uttered an exclamation of despair on seeing it, but sent him to the hospital with this order in his hand,—"Entrance this man, if possible, and let me know when it is done." This was at 12 o'clock P.M., and at 2 o'clock I received a note from my native assistant, informing me that the man was ready. I immediately went to the hospital, and found him lying on his face, in which position he had been necessarily mesmerised; and in five minutes, I reduced the tumour with little difficulty and no resistance. The man never moved, and on awaking a short time after, he was only conscious that his torment had vanished, but knew not how.

I beg leave to present the medical reader with a similar case, treated by me a short time *before becoming acquainted with mesmerism.*

Another peasant was brought to the hospital from a distance with a *prolapsus ani*, the size of a pint bottle, that had been down for several days. Cold and astringent lotions were applied to the part for many hours, and he was suspended by the heels as long as he could bear it, before an attempt was made to return the protruded part. The most persevering efforts at reduction were continued for two days in vain, and the man was carried home by his friends to die miserably.

A great variety of painful cases requiring operation, besides these, yielded readily to the mesmeric influence,—all proving that the patients who required operations were generally capable of being entranced, and made insensible to pain. Pain and excitement of the system are of course impediments, but they are often not insuperable, and are sometimes with singular facility overcome. Let us now turn to—

Cases of Acute Disease cured or relieved by Mesmerism alone.

A Hindoo came to the hospital suffering from retention of urine; the bladder was prominent at the navel, and no instrument could be introduced. He was ordered to lie in the easiest posture, and to be mesmerised. He slept for two hours, and voided his urine freely when he awoke.

A Hindoo girl had suppression of urine for two days, in consequence of violence done to the perineum. No instrument could be introduced, from the inflamed state of the parts, and the bladder was prominent at the navel. She was mesmerised for half an hour, after which she slept for an hour, and on waking voided urine freely. All disagreeable symptoms disappeared, and she recovered without a dose of physic.

Mrs. Clermont had been suffering many months from constant headaches; I threw her into the trance in ten minutes, on the first trial. On awaking, the headache was gone, and never returned.

Several months after this, this lady was tormented with one of two wisdom teeth, for which there was not room in her jaw, and the gum had in consequence become ulcerated and indurated. I entranced her as easily as on the first occasion; cut off the offending gum, and left her sleeping tranquilly on her couch.

Some months subsequently to this, I was sent for by this lady, who had just been delivered, and was suffering severely from *after pains*. I entranced her in a few minutes; she enjoyed a refreshing sleep for some hours, and awoke free of pain, which did not return.

A Hindoo, suffering from acute inflammation of the testes, and doubled up with pain, was kept in the trance for thirty-six hours, with only short intervals of waking, and was then discharged cured.

A Mahomedan had been ill for four days with inflamed eyes; there was great pain over half the head, and he could

not distinguish objects. He was easily thrown into the trance, three days in succession. and was then discharged cured.

A Hindoo lady, suffering from dreadful convulsions, for which I could do nothing, as she could not swallow anything, was entranced in an hour, and I left her cataleptic. The convulsions did not return.

Another Hindoo woman had suffered long from *tic* in the right eyebrow and temple. It was very intense when she came to hospital. She was entranced, and when she awoke an hour after, there was no pain in the part, and it did not return.

Mr. Clermont had been troubled for three weeks with severe rheumatism in his left knee. It was contracted, swelled, shining and hot, and so tender, that he dreaded his children approaching him lest they might touch his knee by accident. He could not sleep, had no appetite, and looked worn out and languid. I mesmerised his knee for a short time, and it gradually became straight. In twenty minutes, he allowed me to press and strike his knee with violence, without complaining, and then got up and walked without pain. He had a crutch by his side when I came in, and could not then move without it.

David Cannan, a private in Her Majesty's 50th Regiment, complained of great pain all over the chest, which felt contracted, and he could not breathe freely. The right knee-joint was contracted, and the ankle and toes were immoveable. There was great tenderness in the calf of the leg, and he could not put his foot to the ground. I had never seen him before, and without saying a word, or leading him to expect anything, I began to mesmerise him. In a short time he breathed more freely: the pain left the chest, and his respiration became natural. The process was extended to the leg, and without my touching it, the knee gradually relaxed, the ankle and toes became flexible, and at the end of half an hour, the

leg was perfeetly straight, and he moved it freely in all directions without pain.

George Adamson, a private in Her Majesty's 53d Regiment, had his arm taken off at the shoulder, and it ached severely, though nearly healed when I first saw him. Having seen me mesmerise Cannan, he begged the apothecary to try to relieve him also. The apothecary soon put him to sleep, and Adamson told me next day, that he had tried all he could to keep awake to watch the effect upon himself, but he very soon fell asleep, and had a good night.

More examples of the immediate eure or relief of aeute medical diseases might be given. But enough has been said, if my statements are believed; and if not, it is useless to multiply them.

If the acute diseases, both surgical and medical, that have been related, derived such striking and immediate benefit from the mesmeric process, is it conceivable that the same persons would have been insensible to the same power in the treatment of chronic complaints, and that so active an agent in acute disease would have been inert as a chronic remedy? We should, on the contrary, reasonably infer that they would probably derive great benefit and comfort from the mesmeric treatment of the painful chronic affections to which they might be liable. The justness of this expectation will be seen from the following

Cases of Chronic Medical Complaints, cured or relieved by Mesmerism alone.

A cure of complete dumbness was thus described by Dr. Webb, Professor of Demonstrative Anatomy in the Medical College, Calcutta, in his Introductory Lecture for 1850.

"In the Mesmeric Hospital, so successfully established by Government in this city under the superintendence of Dr. Esdaile,—you have all witnessed, or might have done so, at any time during the last two years, the power of animal magnetism to render the human frame absolutely insensible

to pain during the most formidable operations of surgery. But, what is still more important, you might have seen also the power of this subtle agent to cure different kinds of paralysis.

"A Hindoo boy was brought to me from a distance by one of your fellow-students. The patient could make himself understood by writing in Bengalese and Persian, but had been completely dumb for a year and a half,—after fever and coma. The tongue was immovably retracted. He was said to have consulted in vain the most eminent physicians in this city. I advised mesmerism; the liberality of Dr. Esdaile provided the means, and he was cured by his native mesmerisers in a fortnight. He now speaks as well as he ever did; nor is this a solitary instance.

"The practicability which has been daily demonstrated in the Mesmeric Hospital of this city, of performing the most dreadful operations of surgery without pain to the patient, must be regarded as the greatest medical triumph in our own days."

February 1st. An old woman brought her son to my hospital on account of his being dumb. The man himself intimated by pantomime, that he possessed all his faculties but the power of speech. He could not utter even a sound of any kind. He made us understand that, after having eaten something, he had become insensible. And on coming to his senses, he found that he could not speak, and he made signs that his head was constantly *turning*. On being asked if he had been *poisoned*, he nodded assent. In the hope of stimulating his brain, I ordered him to be mesmerised for an hour daily.

February 2d. When I asked him to-day if he could speak, he, to my great surprise, answered, "a little," and I found that he could utter single words, but with much difficulty.

February 3d. He speaks pretty well to-day.

February 4th. He speaks with fluency and precision to-day, and his voice is only a little weak and hoarse. After the second day's mesmerising, the *turning* of his head left him, and since then, he has slept long and well.

On recovering his speeeh, he told me a strange tale of poisoning and robbery, whieh I sent him to relate to the proper authorities.

February 18th. Sarah Goodall, aged 11 years. For the last eight years she has been subjected to a periodie attaek of inflammation of the glands of the neck and ear, every six months. The glands at the angle of the neck first beeome painful and enlarged; the ear is next involved, and she is not relieved till suppuration takes plaee; as soon as one car is well, the other is attacked in the same way. Her mother never recollects the glands swelling without the ear-ache following, and this is now the time for her half-yearly attack. There was mueh fever during the attack, whieh was never subdued without leeehing, and her eyesight has been injured in eonsequenee. The words in a book often seem all one line. She looks pale and lymphatic.—To be mesmeriscd loeally and generally.

February 22d. The tenderness and enlargement of the glands under the ear disappearcd after two day's mesmerising, and the ear has not been at all affected, whieh never happened before. She looks morc lively, and her eyesight is natural; when she came here it was very dim and imperfect.

The girl has had no return of her eomplaint for four years.

Moteelall Koonwar, a writer, aged 38. He fell down in a fit, three months ago, and lay insensible for two days. On the third day, he was partially restored to his senses by general bleeding and leeching. Sinee that time, his body, excepting the right arm, has become partially paralysed, and subjeet to a peculiar prieking sensation, which prevents him sleeping at night. He feels and walks like an intoxieated person, and sees double. He cannot stir a foot without a staff.

July 2d. To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

July 15th. He is gradually regaining the use of his limbs, and ean walk a little without his staff.

July 25th. He eomes to the hospital daily without a staff.

He does not feel the inebriated sensation now, and he can hold things firmly in his hands.

August 31st. His vision is perfect, the pricking sensation is gone; he walks like any other man, and has returned to his duty.

Chunder Sen, a labourer, aged 50. Has been suffering for four months from weakness of the limbs up to the knees, and *total loss of sensation all over his body.* He does not feel the slightest pain when severely pricked all over with a scalpel. He walks slowly and insecurely.

November 25th. To be mesmerised daily for an hour and a half.

November 30th. When his body was examined to-day, he felt slight pain in his right breast only, and he was found to walk a little better.

December 10th. The sensibility of his skin is restored, except in the arms, which are as insensible as logs.

December 13th. He walks and feels like any other man, and complains when any part of his body is pricked or pinched. He thinks himself perfectly recovered, and was discharged to-day at his own request.

It is useless to go on citing more cases like the above, for the reason already given. I have said more than enough to satisfy all capable of being convinced, and no amount of evidence will make any impression upon those who are determined not to be convinced.

The candid reader will understand that the examples I have given, are meant to show the extent to which this great natural power *can sometimes go under the most favourable circumstances.* The persons, more or less susceptible of the mesmeric influence, and to whom it is a valuable remedy, are very numerous; and this natural agent often enables us to relieve or cure our patients when all other resources have failed.

It is therefore a valuable addition to our medical knowledge, and those who reject its aid, deprive themselves of a

potent ally, and their patients of a valuable additional source of health and comfort.

It must be evident to all whose minds are not cast in the most contracted mould, or petrified by routine, that so powerful and benignant an agent in the treatment of surgical diseases, must be equally efficacious in easing or relieving many diseases within the province of the physician, unless we suppose mankind to have distinct surgical and medical constitutions. The power of modifying with safety the human system, and of introducing new movements into it, opposed to the continuance of diseased action, is the essential requisite in every remedy; and where shall we find an agent capable of modifying *innocuously* the nervous system,—the main-spring of life,—to the same extent as is done by mesmerism?

CHAP. III.

WHAT MESMERISM IS NOT.

Dr. Simpson has lately informed us, "that such experiments as he has seen or made, have convinced him that the so-called mesmeric phenomena, are merely effects produced by the mind of the 'mesmerised' upon his or her own economy."

His brother Editor, Dr. Bennett, also tells us that—"Motions, passes, and other acts of the so-called animal magnetisers, are only useful in fixing the attention and communicating suggestive ideas."

It was in consequence of seeing such opinions propounded by men apparently in search of knowledge, that I offered to make Dr. Simpson acquainted with numerous facts that had fallen under my observation, and which, to my understanding, could not possibly be disposed of by his theory of *self-mesmerisation*, or by the effects of *imagination and suggestion*. Dr. Simpson and Dr. Bennett had evidently come to their conclusions from the *biological* exhibitions they had lately witnessed in Edinburgh; and having very clearly seen one side of the shield, and declared there was no other, they had no desire to see the side I offered to show them.

Mesmeric observers have been long familiar with the power of suggestion and imagination in mesmeric somnambulism, and had declared that persons in this state could not only be made to believe in the reality of anything suggested or asserted by their mesmerisers, but that their waking acts could be predetermined by orders given to the somnambulists in their sleep, although they had no recollection of what happened in the

mesmeric state. It is often very difficult and laborious to excite the mesmeric action in the constitution; but being once felt, a very slight recurrence to the original process will often bring on the mesmeric paroxysm; and if the excitement of the nervous system is kept up by frequent mesmerising, an independent diseased action is set up in the constitution; we have in fact inoculated the system with a nervous disease, acting spontaneously, and obeying natural laws we do not understand. All this had occurred in my own experience before I had seen a mesmeric book, or knew that it had been observed by others; and Dr. Elliotson had long ago expressly said,—"At length there is sometimes such sensibility, that almost everything will induce sleep; indeed, no process at last may be requisite to produce the effect."

The students of mesmerism were therefore little surprised at the wonderful *biological* experiments, being familiar with them already in the mesmeric state, of which the *biological* condition of the system was only an inferior degree, brought about by different means. For there are many ways besides this of imitating the mesmeric phenomena. But it is a "*non sequitur*" to maintain, that because many of the mesmeric phenomena can be produced by the effects of imagination and suggestion, *therefore* there is no such thing as an independent mesmeric power in nature.

From all that has come under my observation, I am convinced, on the contrary, that mesmerism, *as practised by me*, is a physical power exerted by one animal over another, under certain circumstances and conditions of their respective systems; and I should as soon adopt the *diabolical* theory as a satisfactory solution of the problem, as attempt to account for what I have seen and done, by the action of the imagination alone.

It has been seen, *that all my patients reduced to insensibility for surgical purposes, were mesmerised with their eyes closed, lying in bed in a darkened room; and that it was always considered desirable that the patient should be ignorant of mesmerism, and what was intended to be done.* I even stipulated with the Mesmeric Committee that these conditions should be observed,

as far as practicable; but the President would not permit it, although I offered to pay any damages awarded against him for permitting me to take possession of people's members without their consent.

Not only does the mesmeric influence affect persons ignorant of its existence, but Cuvier, in his "Lessons in Comparative Anatomy," tells us:—"The effects obtained upon persons already asleep, and those which arise in others who have been put asleep by the mesmeric process, with the phenomena presented by animals, do not permit us to doubt that the proximity of two bodies, with certain conditions and motions, produces a genuine influence, altogether independent of the action of the imagination in either; and it is sufficiently evident that these results are owing to some communication having been established between the two nervous systems."

Dr. Ogilvie, Garrison Surgeon, Bombay, wrote to me, that when serving in the Indian Navy, he used to amuse the officers and crews by converting the domestic animals on board into mesmeric somnambulists.

And if the following passages from "Catlin's Account of the North American Indians," is not descriptive of *animal* magnetism, I should like to be told what it is.

"I have often," says Catlin, describing the capture of buffalo calves after the death of their mothers, "in concurrence with a known custom of the country, held my hands over the eyes of a calf, and breathed a few strong breaths into his nostrils; after which I have, with my hunting companions, rode several miles into our encampment with the little prisoner busily following the heels of my horse the whole way, as closely and affectionately as its instinct would attach it to the company of its dam. This is one of the most extraordinary things that I have met with in the habits of this wild country, and although I had often heard of it, and felt unable exactly to believe it, I am now willing to bear testimony to the fact, from the numerous instances which I have witnessed since I came into the country."

In describing the capture of wild horses by the *lassoo*, he also says:—"He (the hunter) gradually advances until he is

able to place his hand on the animal's nose and over its eyes, and at length to breathe in its nostrils, when it soon becomes docile and conquered; so that he has little else to do than to remove the hobbles from its feet, and lead or ride it into camp."

This is probably the secret of the *horse whisperers*, whose proceedings have been described to me as being very similar.

I shall now give an example of a person, not only *asleep*, but *in an intense state of natural coma*, being brought under the mesmeric influence.

On the 29th of Feb. 1848, I called to see my patient Mr. Mackenzie; and while speaking to him, a person hurriedly entered the room, and requested me to go and see Mrs. Mackenzie, who had just then fallen into a fit. As I entered the house, I had seen her apparently quite well. On going into the next room, I saw Mrs. Mackenzie lying stretched out upon the bed, her eyes staring wide open, the pupils dilated and insensible to the light, her breathing *stertorous*, and her jaws locked; in fact, in a state of intense coma. Her friends told me that she was subject to such fits, and sometimes remained for hours in them.

Without saying a word to any one, (her father, mother, husband, and relations were present,) I placed my hand upon her head, and breathed on her eyes. In about a minute, her breathing became perfectly tranquil, and, but for her open eyes, she might have been supposed to be in a natural sleep. The change in the breathing was so sudden, that it arrested my attention, and led me to suspect that I had substituted *mesmeric* for *natural coma*. I expressed this suspicion to her friends, and after observing her for some time, I said I would now test the accuracy of my opinion, by attempting to awake her by *mesmeric means*. I accordingly suddenly demesmerised her, and she instantly awoke in the full possession of her senses. To leave no room for doubt, I approached her when conversing with her friends, and again mesmerised her unawares. Her eyes almost immediately became fixed, and she fell back into profound coma. I now showed her friends that she was insensible to pricking all over, and that she had be-

come *cataleptic* in addition. As the senseless unwinking stare of her eyes alarmed her friends, I closed the eyelids, laid her back on the bed, let her sleep for half an hour, and then again awoke her instantaneously by demesmerising her. She said that she remembered nothing since seeing me arrive. My command over this lady's system was established from this moment, and I could entrance her at any time in a few minutes.

A man, blind from *amaurosis*, having come to hospital, I placed him on a stool, without saying a word to him, and entranced him in ten minutes without touching him. This man became so sensitive after a few trials, that I could entrance him, *in whatever occupation he was employed*, by merely making him the object of my attention for ten minutes.

On going to the hospital one day, I found a man being mesmerised without my orders. The native doctor explained that he was a madman, whom his friends had brought that morning, he having cut his throat, and that he had ordered him to be entranced, if possible, to have the wound sewn up. On examining the man, I found him deeply entranced, and fit to bear any operation. Next day, he was in the same state, and the edges of the wound having become callous, they were pared raw with a knife, and the wound was then brought together with stitches and straps of plaster. He was not in the least disturbed, and on waking, was surprised to find himself no longer breathing through the hole in his neck.

Many other madmen were entranced in the Lunatic Asylum of Calcutta, which was liberally placed at my disposal by the physician, Dr. Strong.

Dr. Kean of Berhampore has for many years employed mesmerism in the treatment of insanity in his extensive asylum, and with excellent effect; and I hope he will soon favour us with the results of his experience.

Mr. Grant, one of the oldest and most respected members of the Bengal Civil Service, and now in England, has often seen me entrance patients from another room, while he was taking their portraits, and engaging their attention as much as possible. This was done, in fact, till we tired of it; and

I well remember Mr. Grant's frequent exclamation, "Well! I am ashamed to have lived so long in ignorance of this great wonder."

If, as Dr. Simpson very truly says, and no one denies, the mesmeric phenomena can sometimes be produced by the independent action of the mind on the body, I think, on the other hand, that from the facts observed by me and others, we are entitled to hold that this is not the *only* origin of the mesmeric symptoms, but that mesmerism, *as practised by me*, is a genuine physical influence excited by one individual over another. Or at least, that it was not *suggestion* or *imagination* that enabled me to perform nearly three hundred painless capital operations; every precaution having been used to exclude them as detrimental to the desired result. Nor can I see how *suggestion* and *imagination* enabled me to entrance madmen, and a person in a state of intense natural coma.

If asked, what then is mesmerism? I would respectfully answer, that the bodily phenomena compose only one half of the evidence that must be examined, before we can hope to form any satisfactory theory of the nature of the mesmeric influence. And as I have, on the present occasion, purposely restricted myself to the practical department of the subject, I am precluded from supporting my views by a reference to innumerable physiological and psychical phenomena elucidating the nature of the mesmeric power. Indeed, till the more gross facts are generally admitted, it would be time wasted to take into consideration the higher mesmeric phenomena, and to reason from a review of the whole subject. I shall therefore content myself with having shewn for the present, *what mesmerism is not.*

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